

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested. Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 20-24 are withdrawn. Claim 1 is amended by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 16, and 17 were rejected as unpatentable over Takebayashi (Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002110547) in view of O'Donnell et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20020086501, hereinafter "O'Donnell"); and Claims 2-15, 18, and 19 were rejected as unpatentable over Takebayashi in view of O'Donnell and further in view of Tsukatani et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,576,354, hereinafter "Tsukatani").

Initially, applicants and applicants' representative thank Primary Examiner Xu for the interview held on May 11, 2006 to discuss the present case. During the interview, differences between the claimed invention and the cited references were discussed in detail. Examiner Xu agreed to reconsider the rejections of record after formal submission of the present amendment.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 1 as unpatentable over Takebayashi in view of O'Donnell, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 recites in part, "a plasma resistant coating over *only the head of the fastener*."

Takebayashi describes a fastener with a plasma resistant film 8 on a bolt head 7a *and* a screw neck 7b.¹ Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion in Takebayashi for "a plasma resistant coating over *only the head of the fastener*" as recited in amended Claim 1. By including the film 8 on the screw neck 7b, Takebayashi uses excess film material and requires careful control of the thickness of film 8 to ensure smooth insertion of screw neck 7b into

¹See Takebayashi, paragraph 19 and Figure 1.

through hole 6. The invention recited in Claim 1 only includes the plasma resistant coating over the head of the fastener, and thus requires less of the coating material and avoids interference of the coating with connections made by the fastener.

O'Donnell describes the coating of a reactor wall with a diamond coating. O'Donnell does describe that a fastener may be coated,² but O'Donnell does not describe that only a portion of a fastener may be coated, much less that the coating is only included on the head of the fastener. Thus, the fastener of O'Donnell also uses excess coating material and requires careful control of the thickness of coating to ensure smooth insertion of the fastener into connections. Therefore, O'Donnell does not teach or suggest "a plasma resistant coating over *only the head of the fastener*" either.

Consequently, as neither Takebayashi nor O'Donnell teach or suggest "a plasma resistant coating over *only* the head of the fastener," it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 1 (and Claims 2-19 dependent therefrom) is patentable over Takebayashi in view of O'Donnell.

Further, with regard to the rejection of Claims 2-15, 18, and 19 as unpatentable over Takebayashi in view of O'Donnell and further in view of Tsukatani, it is noted that Claims 2-15, 18, and 19 are dependent from Claim 1, and thus are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Tsukatani does not cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Takebayashi and O'Donnell. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-15, 18, and 19 are patentable over Takebayashi in view of O'Donnell and further in view of Tsukatani.

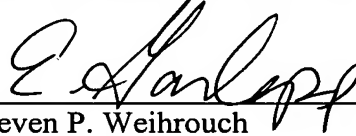
²See O'Donnell, paragraphs 20 and 25.

Application No. 10/764,456
Reply to Office Action of April 25, 2006

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-19 patentably distinguishes over the cited art. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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